



## Jean Saintonge

CEO and designer of Voiles Saintonge



Based in Canada, Voile Saintonge was established by Jean Saintonge in 1979. The company design and produce sails in Canada.



SMAR Azure develops innovative software solutions for the marine industry, working as technological partners to meet the needs and requirements of the industry

# An Interview With:

## Jean Saintonge - Voiles Saintonge analysis work using AzureProject



### Tell us about Voiles Saintonge

Founded in 1979, the company has started to design sails using computer engineering and development of proprietary CAD/CAM software in 1983.

Through the years, designing with less-than-optimal commercial sail making software led Voiles Saintonge towards SMAR Azure in the quest for ultimate accuracy with the cut files.

Straight off, Voiles Saintonge discerned Azure Project and its modules as a Make-Life-Easier suite. These are powerful tools to cope with Voiles Saintonge big jobs.

Ever since, Voiles Saintonge have been able to partake in the tremendous growth of international ocean racing, the Transat Lorient-Saint-Pierre-Lorient 1987, the Whitbread Around the World 1989, the Vendée Globe 1992, most of the Quebec to St. Malo Races.

Various events where Voiles Saintonge got the chance to make their most prestigious sails.

### Tell us more about your experience with SMAR Azure

Jean Saintonge has been a SMAR Azure customer since 2009. He always found all the assistance needed from SMAR Azure's creative and proactive support team.

The support team is a real pleasure to work with. SMAR Azure provide invaluable private training sessions which helps in the development of Voiles Saintonge work. The team also helped in finding solution and suggested to customise NestFab for Voiles Saintonge home-made plotter.

SMAR Azure's interactive workshops in Scotland and at the METS were informative and assisted Voiles Saintonge to continue delivering their projects.

In 2020, due to Covid-19 pandemic, SMAR Azure introduced webinars, aiming to connect and introduce tools in the software that help Voiles Saintonge work smarter, not harder, which saves time to focus on other important aspects.



3D Rendering

## What is the most challenging accomplishment Saintonge had?

The most challenging accomplishment was re-designing the whole sail plan for the Sedna IV, a 252 ft. ship using AzureProject. It was commissioned for a 1,000 day scientific circumnavigation around Antarctica 10 year ago.

Jean knew he could count on the proven reliability of AzureProject and its analysis modules to deliver sturdy sails up to that extraordinary challenge.

## What recent collaboration did Voiles Saintonge had?

Voiles Saintonge strives for excellence in every project. Due to SMAR-Azure's tools, the Beneteau First 285 sail plan optimisation for Bryan Marsh's Atlantic solo crossing was a breeze.

The software allowed Voiles Saintonge to analyse Bryan's request simply and logically. A proven solution for the twenty-month zig-zagging, based on solid principles and well-integrated into the navigation program was offered.

Flow and Flex2 analysis modules proved themselves to be invaluable. Through 3D modelling, the analysis of strain and aerodynamic efficiency had to lead Voiles Saintonge to a reliable performance validation.



Sedna IV

Sailors also reached out to Voiles Saintonge with very specific demands, either for a rig and/or a completely redesigned sail plan.

A daunting task where SMAR's support team precious help pointed Voiles Saintonge towards the right engineering solution for the remodeling of a 42 footer cruising catamaran in Florida recently.

The owners were interested in evaluating the reuse of a rig, originally designed and stepped in a monohull with traditional shrouds and spreader arrangement.

SMAR's support team's feasibility study was based on Jean's initial rig configuration and sail plan for the catamaran: a runner-less rig with large roach mainsail and small jib, two spreader-less shrouds, a diamond on the lower part of the rig and an inverted diamond on the upper part to sustain the masthead.

The double-handed offshore cruising program for the catamaran required a rig design focused on simplicity, avoiding flimsy features.

The study would determine if the proposed rig design concept and sail plan is still worthwhile from a structural standpoint and would include standing rigging diameters and spreader lengths to check what could be salvaged from the original rig.

The results were validated to the owners' entire satisfaction in a Winter cruise to the Bahamas.

They never imagined Voiles Saintonge could reach such accuracy throughout their project. Voiles Saintonge sure stands proudly by the result of the combined efforts with SMAR Azure.

For more information, contact:



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